

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION
OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

May 17, 2002

**Embassy Suites North
Indianapolis, Indiana**

APPROVED MINUTES

Advisory Council Members present:

David Schmidt (Chairperson), Gary Bates, Rose Black, Brett Bollinger Lanier DeGrella ,
Cathlene Hardy Hansen, Marcia Johnson, Becky Kirk, Bret Lewis, John Nally, Jackie Pitman,
Elaine Scaife, Julie Swaim, John Viernes

DOE Staff present:

Bob Marra, Paul Ash, Becky Bowman, Sheron Cochran

Charter Schools Representatives present:

Tim Ehgott (Irvington Community School), John Hayden (21st Century Charter School),
George Saad (Christel House Academy), David Harris and Sejal Doshi (Mayor's Office)

ISEAS Project:

Gary Collings, Susie Thacker

David Schmidt convened the meeting at 9:10 AM. Council members reviewed minutes from the March 1, 2002 meeting. **MOTION: A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Bret Lewis and seconded by Becky Kirk. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken and resulted in the unanimous approval of minutes.**

Comprehensive Plan:

Bob Marra reviewed the main points of the comprehensive plans for delivery of special education and related services for both a single and multi-corporation planning districts.

The comprehensive plan for a single corporation planning district included:

1. School Corporation and Enrollment
2. Comprehensive Services for Students with Disabilities
3. Personnel
4. Interagency Agreements
5. Parent Involvement and Community Relationships
6. Assurance of Compliance with all Applicable Federal and State Regulations

There were no suggestions from members for additions or changes to this document.

The comprehensive plan for a multi-corporation planning district included:

1. Participating School Corporations and Enrollment
2. Governance and Administration
3. Comprehensive Services for Students with Disabilities
4. Personnel
5. Interagency Agreements
6. Parent Involvement and Community Relationships
7. Assurance of Compliance with all Applicable Federal and State Regulations

Under Item #3, preschool services have been merged, doing away with a separate comprehensive plan. Members discussed the concern that some districts may only have self-contained options in early childhood

that do not include peers without disabilities. Services to students in private schools have also been addressed under Item #3. Members were reminded that there are no boundaries for a non-public school. Although private schools are responsible to have a referral process, the local district in which the private school is located has child find responsibilities.

Under Item #6, Parent Advisory Councils were discussed. The pro and con of a separate group or being a part of the general parent associations has recently been debated. Bob mentioned the recent training through the twelve regions set up by IN*SOURCE. Members noted the need for friendly telephone contacts with invited participants prior to any such session to increase attendance.

Under Item #4, Personnel, a member asked about the new ESEA provision that Title I paraprofessionals are to have a two-year degree. Marra clarified that special education paraprofessionals have not been brought under these federal provisions at this time. Some school boards, however, have taken the position that all paraprofessionals must have two-year degrees.

Comprehensive Plan for Charter Schools:

The Indianapolis Charter Special Services (ICSS) is organized pursuant to a joint service and supply agreement. A Board of Directors consisting of one representative from each charter school will govern the ICSS. The four participating charter schools and their anticipated enrollment are 21st Century Charter School (74), Christel House Academy (280), Flanner House Elementary School (150), and Irvington Community School (96). It was noted that anyone in the State of Indiana can submit an application to attend a charter school. Marra explained that each charter school is a single building school corporation. The ICSS will become only the third special education planning district for charter schools in the nation. Washington DC had the first, and the second was Austin, Texas. During this year, the Division of Exceptional Learners will work with the charter schools on unique students and the IEP process as needed.

Representatives from three of the four Indianapolis charter schools were introduced. John Hayden will serve as Principal of 21st Century Charter School, to be housed at Union Station. George Saad, Christel House Academy, works for Sabis Corporation, which manages public and private schools and operates in eleven countries around the world. Christel House Academy is located at 2700 Southeast Street. Tim Ehrgott represented Irvington Community School under a charter from Ball State University. Representing the Mayor's office were David Harris and Sejal Doshi, both of whom work with charter schools in Indianapolis. Harris emphasized the Mayor's office is committed to serving students with disabilities. He detailed how his office has publicized the enrollment announcements.

John Hayden served as spokesperson as 21st Century Charter School will serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for the charter school cooperative. He noted the charter schools are by nature independent and want to control their own respective funds and case conferences. The goal of the schools is to give each child an all-around program, both academic and non-academic. The ICSS has submitted a comprehensive plan for one year. A special education director yet to be selected will serve in an advisory capacity to the four member charters. The member schools will pay their respective share for services. Students were selected by a blind lottery during the open enrollment period. The charter schools are required by the mayor to have a transportation system, but not necessarily door-to-door pick-up, so that students are not excluded. The school will utilize the Individualized Curriculum and Assessment Notebook (ICAN) system. In response to a question about medically fragile students, representatives responded that the charters are subject to Article 7 and have plans for health care services.

The three charter schools representatives each gave a brief overview of the mission, vision, and progress for their respective program. Each school will have 210 instructional days for students, with an eight-hour school day. Each school will have an all-day kindergarten. There will be no preschool services as all of the member schools begin with kindergarten.

A question was asked about parent involvement in the schools. Hayden noted 21st Century encourages parents to attend school with their child any time of day to assist in his or her instruction. There is

communication with the parents by e-mail, and two parents will sit on the board. Irvington also has a parent advisory board and home visits. Harris stressed that the by-laws require parental representation on the respective charter boards.

In the absence of a representative, David Harris explained that the Flanner House is a long established school in the community, located at 24th and Martin Luther King Drive. Flanner House is a private school which is switching to a charter school to serve more students. It is now K-3 and will eventually expand to K-5.

Marra explained that the comprehensive plan will only be approved for one year, so a renewal application will need to be submitted next year. The charter schools are not eligible for special education funding until the Advisory Council makes the appropriate recommendation to the Associate Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent formally approves the comprehensive plan. They are to be forward funded under Part B and adjustments will be made after the December 1 child count through the formula (1998 foundation, census, and poverty rate.) They also have access to state funds under ADM, APC, school lunch, Title I, G & T, etc.

David Schmidt called for a vote on approving the comprehensive plan. **MOTION: Bret Lewis moved the Indianapolis Charter Special Services Comprehensive Plan for Delivery of Special Education and Related Services be approved for one year with periodic updates provided to the Advisory Council for monitoring. Julie Swaim seconded the motion. After discussion, a voice vote on the Lewis/Swaim motion to approve the comprehensive plan resulted in unanimous approval.**

Discussion preceded approval of the motion. Lewis was asked for clarification on "monitoring." He responded that he would like to see the Advisory Council do the monitoring as it will be asked to vote on the renewal of the comprehensive plan next year. Periodic reports should include updated student population profiles to assist in the renewal consideration. Hayden responded that the charter by law is the P.L. 221 plan. He also noted that each school has a professional development plan. Marra assured the Council he will provide updates at the September and November 2002 meetings on student enrollment, transportation, etc.

David Schmidt passed the gavel to Julie Swaim as vice-chairperson. He asked if a planning district with less than 1,000 students was sufficient to do what they needed to do? However, due to the philosophy of each, he feels comfortable that students with disabilities will be fully included and well served.

Marra said the personnel development and training can be inserted in the boiler plate outline, which he previously distributed. For example, the separate CSPD application process and assurances would apply. Schmidt replied the request for data updates and monitoring were a result of this being a totally new arrangement and plan that must be renewed next year. This approach today is a starting point and sets some precedence for future submissions.

East Central Special Education Cooperative Status Report:

Marra informed members that this cooperative has begun plans to split into two districts. One will include the following corporations: Fayette County, Rushville Consolidated, and Centerville-Abington. The other district will include the following corporations: Franklin County, Northeastern Wayne County, Union County, and Western Wayne Community. The Division has contracted with a consultant (Lauren Hoffman) to assist both districts in developing and implementing their respective plans. Although new hires have been employed by the local corporations, the realignment of personnel and contracts as well as public participation in the process will be paramount.

Article 7 Update:

Marra reported that the new Article 7 document is in the Governor's office awaiting his signature. It will next go to the Secretary of State to be officially filed.

Division Update:

University Training Programs - Bob announced that Dean Jack Maynard (ISU) and Dean Roy Weaver

(BSU) are forming an alliance with the Division to develop a 24 hour licensing program in the area of visual impairments that may be on-line by January 2003. An obstacle is the stipulation in the new IPSB standards that the candidate first satisfy the requirements for Mild Intervention before adding the VI licensure area, which would be additional course work and credit hours. The Division will underwrite some program costs for the distance learning structure and modules. Directors may need to consider avenues to support partial costs of tuition so that the graduate student does not have to bear the full tuition costs.

In a similar agreement to address personnel needs, Bob reported on Dean Maynard's interest in developing a distance learning model at ISU for the future training of both speech pathologists and school psychologists. The SLP master's degree program would be extended to at least three years with some time on campus during the summer. The Division will underwrite program re-design costs but tuition will be the responsibility of the graduate student (and perhaps the local director).

State Schools - Marra commented that there will be a joint meeting of the ISB and ISD school boards next week to discuss the proposed merger into a single superintendency.

Council Membership - Marra briefly reviewed a handout detailing the terms of current members and the vacancies to be filled by new appointments. He asked members to send him names of nominees of both consumers and parents of children and youth with disabilities. One member suggested seeking a parent of a child with autism.

Bob Marra received the May 17 resignation of Deborah Winchester from the Advisory Council effective immediately. Due to personal and family responsibilities over the past year, Deborah feels she has not been able to fulfill her role. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to have served with people so dedicated to ensuring quality education for children with disabilities.

Federal Monitoring - Marra remarked that he does not expect OSEP to do an on-site monitoring visit in Indiana. There is, however, some follow-up data that he needs to collect from local districts and file with OSEP by the end of May. For students exiting high school, the Division needs a count by disability category of students with academic honors diploma, core 40 diploma, diploma by passing both parts of the GQE, diploma through the appeals process, and a certificate of completion. The second set of data relates to numbers of Part C students (three year olds) transitioning to Part B programs in the schools.

Annual Report - Marra distributed copies of the first annual report to be disseminated from the State Advisory Council. This May 2002 document of facts and statistics titled, Educating Students with Disabilities in Indiana, details who are the students, where are they being taught, by whom, what are the available resources, and what are the outcomes for the students with disabilities in Indiana. A member suggested that the school to adult data become part of the Graduate Follow-up Study in the future. Marra responded that the Division would like to incorporate more of this type of data collection into CODA. Another member requested that the reference to Severe Disabilities (page 19) be qualified by a statement that the label is used for funding purposes not reflective of student capability.

Bob Marra announced that the Indiana Department of Education is one of eight states awarded a national grant through NASDSE. This \$20,000 partnership grant centered on academic standards will be conducted in cooperation with COVOH to host a collaborative summit, which he anticipates will be held in September 2002. The competition, sponsored by the IDEA Partnerships (federally funded projects) awarded grants to states to replicate a summit model similar to the National Summit on the Shared Implementation of IDEA held in Washington, DC in June of 2000. These efforts are made possible through the support of the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. The partnership grant awards have been made to the following states in the amount of \$25,000: Colorado, Louisiana, West Virginia. In addition, five awards of \$20,000 were made to Connecticut, Indiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Carolina. Winners were announced and recognized in early April at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo in New York.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Members selected August 9 (9:30 AM) for a tentative meeting to be held at the Department of Education. The time for both the September 13 and November 15 sessions was confirmed for 9:30 AM at the Embassy Suites North.

MOTION: Brett Bollinger moved to adjourn at 1:00 PM. After a second by Jackie Pitman, the motion was unanimously approved.